

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ARTICLE IN WEEKLY REVIEW HIBERNIA JANUARY 6, 1978

THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN THE JANUARY 6 ISSUE
OF THE WEEKLY REVIEW HIBERNIA UNDER HEADING ARMS AND THE
IRISHMAN:

BEGIN TEXT

THE UNITED STATES' CONCERN FOR THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AS EXPRESSED RECENTLY BY PRESIDENT CARTER
IN INDIA, IS PERHAPS THE MOST IRONIC-EVER GAMEKEEPER. THE
U.S. WAS THE FIRST AND MERCIFULLY THE ONLY NATION SO FAR TO
UNLEASH THE HORRORS OF ATOMIC DESTRUCTION ON MANKIND ON 5
AUGUST 1945. AND EVEN THEIR DECISION TO REPEAT THE RAIN OF
DEVASTATION FOUR DAYS LATER ON NAGASAKI WAS TEMERED BY NO
SENSE OF THE ENORMITY OF THE CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY. "LET
THERE BE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT," WROTE THE COCKY LITTLE
PRESIDENT FROM MISSOURI IN HIS MEMOIRS, "I REGARDED THE BOMB
AS A MILITARY WEAPON AND NEVER HAD ANY DOUBT THAT IT
SHOULD BE USED." WITH THIS KIND OF PRECEDENT, AND
THIS TYPE OF ATTITUDE ALBEIT IN WAR TIME, CAN ANY
SANE PERSON VIEW THE PRESENT SITUATION WITHOUT THE
DEEPEST FOREBODING AND ALARM?

AFTER THIRTY TWO YEARS OF NUCLEAR STOCKPILING THE
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WORLD HAS MORE REASON THAN EVER TO ENSURE THAT
ATOMIC OR NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE NEVER AGAIN EMPLOYED IN
WAR. THE DESTRUCTIVE CAPACITY OF EACH MODERN NUCLEAR
WARHEAD FAR EXCEEDS THE EXPLOSIVE YIELD EQUIVALENT OF
THE ATOMIC BOMBS DROPPED ON JAPAN, AND THEIR
EFFECTIVENESS IS BEING CONTINUOUSLY "IMPROVED."
ACCORDING TO THE STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE

RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SIPRI) THE USA ADMITS TO HAVING STRATEGIC FORCES WHICH CAN DELIVER 9,000 INDEPENDENTLY TARGETABLE NUCLEAR WARHEADS, AND THE USSR HAS ABOUT 4,000. IN ADDITION TO THEIR STRATEGIC NUCLEAR FORCES, THE TWO SUPER-POWERS HAVE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS, MOST OF WHICH ARE CONSIDERABLY MORE POWERFUL THAN THE ATOMIC BOMBS THAT DESTROYED HIROSHIMA.

IN THE FACE OF SUCH A DIABOLICAL ARSENAL WHICH NOW THREATENS THE VERY SURVIVAL OF THE HUMAN RACE, CAN THIS COUNTRY CONTRIBUTE ANYTHING AT ALL TO THE CESSATION OF THE ARMS RACE AND THE HALT TO NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION? THE ANSWER EMPHATICALLY IS YES. IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC TO THE REALITY OF THE THREAT. ONLY THE WORLD-WIDE FORCE OF PUBLIC OPINION, FULLY INFORMED ON THE DIRE POSSIBILITIES, CAN BEGIN TO EXERCISE SOME RESTRAINT ON THE DR. STRANGELOVES OF THE NUCLEAR AGE AND THEIR BUTTON-PUSHING CAPACITY FOR TOTAL ANNIHILATION. SECONDLY, AT THE DIPLOMATIC LEVEL, IRELAND BECAUSE OF ITS NON-ALIGNED POSITION, COULD PLAY A MORE POSITIVE ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TOWARDS A DISARMAMENT TREATY. AT THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT NEXT MAY, FOR INSTANCE, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALIGN ITSELF OPENLY AND FULLY WITH SUCH STATES AS AUSTRIA, FINLAND, SWEDEN, UNCLASSIFIED

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YUGOSLAVIA, ETC. WHICH HAVE ALREADY ADOPTED AN EXPLICIT NEUTRALIST POSITION IN UN AFFAIRS. THE IRISH INTERNATIONAL PEACE MOVEMENT, A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION, WILL SOON LAUNCH A CAMPAIGN WHICH INCLUDES THESE VERY OBJECTIVES.

FIFTEEN YEARS OF ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS HAVE TOTALLY DISILLUSIONED THOSE WHO INITIALLY BELIEVED THAT THE SOVIET-US ARMS RACE WOULD BE STOPPED AND DISARMAMENT ACHIEVED BY A STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS. IN FACT, SINCE WORLD WAR II THE ARMS RACE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY UNCONSTRAINED AND THE ONLY WEAPONS DESTROYED BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS - WEAPONS OF LITTLE MILITARY INTEREST. ARMS CONTROL MAY LEAD TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ARMS RACE. ARMS CONTROL MAY CONTRIBUTE TO SOVIET-US DETENTE. BUT, OTHER THAN THE ACTUAL NEGOTIATORS AND COMMITTED POLITICAL LEADERS WHO SOON DEVELOP A HIGH LEVEL OF PROFESSIONAL OPTIMISM, FEW NOW BELIEVE THAT THE ARMS CONTROL APPROACH WILL LEAD TO SIGNIFICANT DISARMAMENT.

CAN A FAR-REACHING DISARMAMENT TREATY, INCLUDING NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, BE ACHIEVED, USING THE TRADITIONAL

METHODS OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL LAW? SIPRI
BELIEVES THAT IT CAN. BUT THE PROCESS REQUIRES THE
MOBILIZATION OF WORLD OPINION THROUGH A REAL UNDERSTANDING
OF THIS UNIQUE THREAT TO THE SURVIVAL OF MANKIND.
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